

FROM THE LIFE OF THE CITY

Homes of Rag-Time Are Deserted—A Masterful Surgeon and a Dead Horse.

The downtown beer gardens, the homes of ragtime, are dark. Late last spring they were discouraged by the police, and the approach of warm weather cut their patronage deeply. Though the season of cold activity in these places, probably their proprietors are interested in the city election. Last winter the gardens were permitted to go as they pleased and they prospered. The word "garden" in this application is bereft of verdure. The places are large rooms filled with rough tables and made attractive by music and signs of renewed activity. It was in them and their annexes that melodic syncopation was started on its mission to sweep the country and to invade the high-class theaters and the homes of the cultured.

Close attendants on the plays presented at English's Opera House last season began to be impressed with a vague musical murmur that accompanied the speeches on the stage. A few that were led to speculate on this phenomenon were inclined to regard it as a trick of an inventive stage manager, who had so screened off a piano back of the scenery that its sound was muffled to a pleasing undertone. This solution was spoiled at a certain performance of a melodrama by the musical murmur rising during a peculiarly painful scene between the hero and the heroine until the strain of "I Cannot Stand to See My Baby Lose" was distinguishable. Clearly, no stage manager would be guilty of such an artistic device.

The fact was that the music came from a "garden" in the rear of the theater. The piano's sound was filtered through the alley doors of the garden and the stage door of the theater and reached the audience softened almost to nothing.

This garden's cement floor now bears pool tables instead of tables and chairs; the piano that stood on a platform in one corner is gone; the female contingent has disappeared; the atmosphere is no longer agitated by ecstatic ragtime. The last two piano players in this place were without interesting characteristics, one of them being "Ragtime Snow, of Louisville," prominent on Indiana avenue as a champion pianist, but their predecessor was extraordinary. His career in this city was short and full of incident.

This young man came here with his family from a town in Illinois. He wore his hair long and his hat broad. "I came here to study law," he told his first acquaintances, "and I've got my wife and baby in a cottage on the North Side. I play here from 2 o'clock in the afternoon until 11 o'clock at night, and in the morning I go to law school."

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passed between the tables, nodding to his acquaintances and supported by his prestige as a "rag timer." He had quit the law school and was devoting himself entirely to the syncopated life, though he had no work at the piano. Late one night an acquaintance met him south of Washington street and asked him where he was going. "I am going to catch a freight to Chicago," he said. He did not add what had become of his wife and baby. Stout's place has been one of the noisiest and most popular. There is a restaurant in connection, but little is eaten there and at night it is full of men and women drinking. They are served by women, who get their trays equipped at the bar. The waitresses are sorry-looking, frowny, pale and shabbily dressed. They lean on the end of the bar counter and say, "Gimme two beers and a whisky, John," to the bartender. On the bench on the sidewalk sit the male hangers-on, who live by mysterious means, use their own slang speech and roll cigarettes. They might be waiters if the garden were open and the orchestra were sending down strange noises from its roost, where it has been safe from the Nicholson law.

A farmer driving on Meridian street, his head almost resting on his knees, was awakened from his reverie by one of his horses collapsing and turning over on its side with a long groan. By the time the farmer had climbed from his seat at least fifteen men had gathered around the prostrate horse. Several employees of a nearby livery stable ran out and joined the circle. Each newcomer asked, "Horse still alive?"

The horse had closed its eyes and lay still. Its companion of the team stared moodily at the asphalt pavement. The farmer was assisted in taking the harness from the animal that was down and in leading the other leading the wagon a short distance away. The farmer was seriously perturbed. "That horse was all right," he said, and repeated it.

"It's all right now," said a man in the circle, who constantly increased. Rain began to fall, but it drove no one of the spectators to shelter. A restless man in the front rank put his hand on the horse's side. "He's cold already," he said, feeling the throng. "He's dead." His tone was conclusive, and after his statement he hurried away to another matter, having decided this one. The crowd was impatient and the farmer gave up all hope. "He died quick, didn't he?" said the farmer, trying to smile.

One of the livery stable employees had gone into the stable and had called a veterinary surgeon, who has his office there. At this juncture he returned with the surgeon. The surgeon pushed his way through the crowd of men and struck the horse with a whip.

"What's the use to hit him," protested a man close by.

The surgeon gave the speaker a sharp glance, but addressed his reply to the horse. "Get up, get up," he said, wielding his whip smartly. "Get away from me. He struck the horse again and called to it commandingly and the animal rose. The liveryman took the horse by the forelock and led it into the stable, the surgeon trailing.

"Oh, yes, he's dead!" exclaimed the delighted farmer, and the throng scattered. "There's an illustration said one man, 'That it's always wise to call in a doctor.'"

States Senate to succeed Mr. Deboe. To still further advance his senatorial ambitions, Cantrell appears before the Democratic state executive committee and informs its members that the plan for a state senatorial primary, urged by two-thirds of the Democrats of Kentucky and demanded by four-fifths of the Democratic press, is impracticable, whereupon the committee decides that no primary shall be held. Also, too, he declaims tearfully against the crime which struck down the Nation's chief at Buffalo; says it is right that the people should pray for his recovery, and then declares solemnly that when the martyred Goebel was felled by the assassin there were no public prayers for his recovery; but if there were prayers, they were secret prayers that he might die. "Out upon such bathos!"

No stainless seat of justice his—No spotless ermine wraps his fabled form, But foul corruption speeds its argosies To do the country and the people harm. No high ambition sways judicial mind, But greed for power warps judicial sight; For lo! the judge, and not Justice, blind Works grave oppression with judicial might.

The death of Josiah Gwin, the veteran New Albany editor, removes a personality standing alone in the public life of Indiana. The latest of his Democratic partisans, and with his mind, in some of its aspects, warped by political fallacies of past generations, he was nevertheless of such sterling honesty that he was ever ready to fight even for what he thought to be wrong if the people, by their mandate at the polls, had declared it to be the rule for their governance. None was so swift to victory as he in the denunciation of Democratic corruption in Floyd county and New Albany, and Democratic slanders of competent Republican officials, notably of Governor Durbin and the late Governor Mount, were repeatedly and earnestly rebuked by him. In the Kentucky controversy he took strong grounds against Goebel, saying, in regard to the contest: "So strongly am I certain of the election of Governor Taylor that, if necessary, I will shoulder a musket to see that he holds the seat to which he has been elected." After Goebel was killed he said: "Governor Taylor and the men associated with him are not the kind of men who would enter into such a conspiracy. The killing of Goebel does not alter my belief in the justice of their case as a lot."

In his private life he had a strong aesthetic sense. I recall the delight he always exhibited in showing his flowers and fruit trees to interested observers, and he possessed a wide knowledge of books and art, both of sculpture and painting. To one who was interested in these things he never tired of talking, and he talked interestingly. The grounds of his beautiful home on the Knobs, back of New Albany, were always open to the public, and from the hill in front of the house the Ohio valley could be seen stretching away for miles to the south. This view was his chief pride, and he always pointed it out to visitors.

THE GOSSIP.

September Days.

The goldenrod is yellow, The trees in apple orchards With fruit are bending down. By all these lovely tokens September days are here, With summer's best of weather, And autumn's best of cheer.

—Helen Hunt Jackson.

SUBURBAN SOCIETY NOTES.

Brightwood.

Mr. Lee King is visiting relatives in Elwood. Mr. F. Pratt is visiting relatives in Bellefontaine, O.

Mr. and Mrs. Cupp have returned to their home in Paris, Ill.

Mrs. Katherine Ferrer is visiting relatives in Kansas City, Mo.

Dr. E. A. Brown has returned from a business trip to St. Louis.

Mrs. E. M. Custer, of Louisville, Ky., is the guest of Mrs. Bassett.

Mr. Eugene Screech has returned from a visit to relatives in Upton.

Mr. J. Caskey will return to-day from a visit to friends in Cincinnati.

Mrs. P. McKenna and daughter Nora have returned from Goodland.

Mr. and Mrs. Willis Emmons are visiting relatives in Fond du Lac, Wis.

Miss Jennie Casey, of Crawfordville, is the guest of Miss Mamie Riley.

Mr. Charles White has returned from a visit to his parents in Madison.

Miss Tella Tremble has returned from a visit to her aunt in McCordsville.

Mrs. J. Dinnell, of Fort Wayne, is the guest of her son in Elwood.

Miss Emma Shoorbridge has returned from a visit to friends in Rushville.

Mrs. George Negley and children, Earl and Martha, are visiting in Elwood.

Mr. and Mrs. Arval Fred have returned from a visit to relatives in McCordsville.

Miss Alice White will return this week from a visit to friends and relatives in Moran.

Mrs. Comly and daughter will return to-day from a visit to relatives in Terre Haute.

Mr. Thomas Binkham and son Earl, who have been visiting in St. Louis, Mo., have returned.

Mrs. Woodruff, who has been visiting Mr. and Mrs. John Woodruff, has returned to Morrisstown.

Mrs. Rosalia Hodson, who has been the guest of her grandparents in Kansas City, has returned.

Messrs. T. E. and Fred Davis and Miss Mamie Hopkins are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Hayes.

Miss Emma Odell, of Greencastle, who has been visiting her brother, Dr. Odell, has returned home.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gallagher and son Arthur, of Terre Haute, are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Meach.

Mrs. George Sears, who has been visiting relatives in Fond du Lac, Wis., and Chicago, has returned home.

Mrs. W. Worley and sons Claude and Clyde, have returned from several weeks visit with relatives in Ohio.

Mrs. J. W. Burr and daughter Helen, horse and man, have returned from several weeks visit with relatives in Ohio.

Mrs. Martha von Berg has returned home from several weeks' visit to Buffalo.

Miss Vere Hayes, of Terre Haute, who was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Huffer, has returned.

Miss Minnie Goodlett will return, this week, after several weeks' stay at Lake Maxinkuckee.

Mrs. John Lovett and daughter Rena, have returned from a month's visit to Traverse City, Mich.

Mrs. Edith McLean, who was visiting her mother, Mrs. Hoffman, has returned to her home in Chicago.

Miss Ora Kidd and her guest, Miss Cora Morgan, have returned from a visit to